

## Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



Poplar Grove School  
2959 Del Rio Pike  
Franklin, TN 37069



### PGS Students Promote Clean Air Month

#### The Member

Poplar Grove School is a community of creative and compassionate learners committed to continuous improvement. Poplar Grove was built on and named for the home site of Abram Maury, one of Franklin's founding fathers. We are a kindergarten through eighth grade balanced calendar school that opened in July 2000. We have over 1,100 students and faculty. Poplar Grove School is committed to caring for the environment. Students are involved in activities that conserve, enhance and protect our school and community.

#### The Story

We identified the need for student, family and staff awareness and education regarding clean air. Poplar Grove School had never promoted any clean air activities. Most people surveyed informally were unaware that May is Clean Air Month. Through the School Environment Evaluation (SEE) process, we identified the need to assess PGS indoor air quality and raise awareness about IAQ concerns as well.

#### The Success

Middle School Green Team members led a Walk, Bike, Bus or Carpool to School Day in May 2007 and April 2008. After promoting the event through the newsletter, automated phone system, email, student-led morning announcements, and outside posters, we had 10 fewer cars at dismissal in 2007 and 8 fewer in 2008 on the designated Clean Air Days. Green Team members passed out flyers encouraging parents to turn engines off while waiting in the pickup line. Clean air and gas saving tips were posted on our PGS green webpage: [www.fssd.org/PGSweb/green\\_news.html](http://www.fssd.org/PGSweb/green_news.html).

Faculty, staff and district personnel utilized the EPA Tools for Schools Indoor Air Quality assessment to identify air quality concerns. Problems identified and addressed were: open doors for extended periods at dismissal, general cleaning concerns, leaky faucet, roof leaks, and delivery trucks and buses idling. The PGS Green Team Energy Patrol monitors and reports weekly on any new IAQ concerns. A system for reporting and addressing newly identified concerns was established. We have posted a No-Idle Zone sign at the loading dock. Our

district transportation supervisor has instructed bus drivers to turn engines off in the bus dismissal line. Green Team members signed and presented each bus driver a thank you note for supporting our clean air efforts. We will continue to encourage our parents to turn engines off at dismissal. Both Elementary and Middle School Green Team members participated in an air quality/energy program and tour provided by the Franklin Special School District Department of Maintenance Supervisor.



#### The Pollution Prevented

Although our car volumes were not significantly lower (13%) on Clean Air Days, gas was saved and fewer emissions were released into the environment. We saved 64 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions according to EPA. EPA data shows buses use 1/2 gallon of diesel per hour of idling. With 9 PGS buses turning off their engines in the afternoon, we project a fuel savings of 405 gallons/year and cost savings of \$1,620/year (at current prices of \$4/gallon for diesel).

PGS indoor air quality improved through addressing identified concerns and education about potential pollutants. We have raised awareness with staff and families and will continue to monitor indoor air quality. Keep moving forward Pioneers! Way to go Green!

**April 2008**

